

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 21-25, and 28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 6, and 23 are amended; and claims 11-20, 26, and 27 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Claim 1 is the sole pending independent claim.

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction Requirement

Applicants acknowledge the election of Group I, of which claims 1-10 and 21-28 read on, and claims 11-20 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Since claims 11-20 have been canceled by this Amendment, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file a divisional application(s) directed to the non-elected invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate that claims 1, 2, 7-10, 25, and 28 are allowed; and appreciates the indication that claims 3-6 and 21-24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 4 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to place this application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 4, as suggested by the Examiner, to provide proper antecedent basis.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Anal. Chem. 1989, 2566-2570 to Bindra et al.; claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,391,558 to Henkens et al.; and claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 02/42759 to Gumbrecht.

Applicants submit that the rejections have been rendered moot as claims 26 and 27 have been canceled by this amendment. Withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNES, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



David J. Cho, (Reg. No. 48,078)

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD/DJC:has
1261824.1